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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 17-20 and add new claim 21 in accordance with the following:

1-16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM packets comprising:

means for outputting a first ATM packet and a second ATM packet, each ATM packet including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;

means for inputting the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet and extracting the communication information from the payload of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet;

means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet; and

means for outputting the new ATM packet.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM packets comprising:

means for outputting a first ATM packet and a second ATM packet, each ATM packet including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;

means for inputting the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet;

means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having same channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet; and

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means for outputting the new ATM packet.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A multiplexing device in a system using ATM packets including means for outputting a first ATM packet and a second ATM packet, each ATM packet including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload, the multiplexing device comprising:

means for inputting the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet;

means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having a same channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packet; and

means for outputting the new ATM packet.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method using ATM packets comprising:

outputting a first ATM packet and a second ATM packet, each including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;

inputting the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet;

multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packet and the second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node, into a payload of a new ATM packet; and outputting the new ATM packet.

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

21. (NEW) A system using ATM packets comprising:

a unit multiplexing communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of a first TM packet and a second ATM packet, both of the ATM packets being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload

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of a new ATM packet, and outputting the new ATM packet.